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Air Tactics In Viet Nam Criticized

By the Associated Press

A spokesman for the American Friends Service Committee says the U.S.-South Viet Nam forces are using aircraft in the Vietnamese war in ways he regards as morally wrong and which may backfire.

The organization's associate executive secretary, Stephen G. Cary, who returned from Viet Nam in August, expressed this view at a hearing yesterday by the Senate subcommittee on refugees and escapees. The group is headed by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

Cary told the senators he could understand the military basis for what he called the "No-sanctuary" policy. He said this "permits a commander in the field to call up air attack support when his men are being fired upon or when he believes Viet Cong are taking refuge in a village, but more than military considerations are in order.

"I deeply believe the policy is wrong—morally, shortsighted pragmatically and disastrous in terms of the bitterness it is creating among civilian Vietnamese, both those it drives to become refugees and those who stay behind," he said.

Cary said he could see "even less justification for the open-target areas policy under which any aircraft unable to dispose of their explosives on the designated target and prohibited from landing with explosives aboard is instructed to drop them within certain Viet Cong areas—on village, rice paddy, man or beast, wherever whim dictates."